6: Sauer--113-114 G-5 (1785-94) 1802 Yakut
116, 161, 464, 591

"To my certain knowledge, upwards of 1500 Yakuti are hired as labourers by the inhabitants of the town of Yakutsk; their wives dwell with the tribes, and do not see their husbands for years. However, I have some other [114] reasons, which will be mentioned hereafter, to account for the decrease in the population of this nation."

38: Dobell--38 G-2 (1812-13) 1830 Yakut
116, 511, 464, 556

"The population of the province of Yakutsk is upwards of one hundred thousand souls, between eighty and ninety thousand of whom are Yakuts, and many of them were extremely rich; but now there are few large proprietors. Indeed there is actually amongst them a very large proportion of poor, who, if it were not for the employment they find amongst the Russians, and the great cheapness of living, would be reduced to beggary."

233 one polar fox, or for reindeer meat, fat, and hides, according to
432 the agreement; the last case is met with very rarely.
437 The increase in the size of their herds leads rich men to resort
to two applications of hired labor: 1) turning part of their herds over
233 to someone else to be looked after for the summer, and 2) hiring
464 herders.
465 [200] In the spring the rich reindeer breeder remains for the most
part near the rivers, where he lives a more peaceful settled life
[857] fishing. For the duration of this period he sends his reindeer into the
tundra, appointing as substitute master in place of himself one of
his children--even though he may be a mere child--to be attached
to the herders or to poor relatives, who, it goes without saying, re-
ceive nothing for their work. If there are no children or relatives,
or if the latter are for some reason unwilling, a hired "master" is
found. The family of the latter is provided with flour, tea, and
tobacco until autumn, that is, until the return of the herd; to the
man (the herder) alone is given half of a thick, dressed hide for the
soles of his shoes and one chamois leather for his summer footgear.
But he is also given a summer Siberian fur coat; sometimes this is
already made, and sometimes he is told to kill such and such a rein-
deer and to use its hide for clothing. As pay such a hired master re-
ceives two or three reindeer for the summer's work. If a reindeer
dies from disease or is killed by some wild animal during the pastur-
ing time, the hired master is not held responsible, but is required to
present the hide from the reindeer's body and legs to the owner, pro-
vided the reindeer did not die of some contagious disease.

In the fall the herd is driven home and handed over to the owner.
Men who live in the same choom as the master are chosen to look
after the herd in the winter. Usually such herdsmen are clanless
bachelors or poor men who have added their few reindeer to the herd
of the rich man, and who help out in the pasturing in return for this.
The aforementioned persons do not receive any pay besides food and
[736] winter clothing. To a second category of herdsmen belong orphans
who have been turned over to their relatives to be brought up, or the
children of poor men who are considered the wards of society and
who live with the rich man until they come of age. They are like-
wise supplied with clothing and food, and they receive one or two
reindeer for their winter services, depending on the wishes of the
master. And finally, there are special hired herdsmen in the pro-
portion of two persons for each thousand reindeer. Under them there
is supposed to be a woman subordinate, who is supposed to mend
clothing, change the soles on footgear, dress and soften the hide for

233 their clothing, and sometimes even help to look after the reindeer.
464 Such a woman--the assistant of the herdsmen, receives as payment
465 for the winter's work one grown reindeer plus her food and clothing. The herdsmen likewise receive food, winter clothing, hide for the soles of their footgear, and four or five reindeer as their pay.

233 Notwithstanding the fact that the reindeer as a riding animal plays
438 the most important role in the life of the Dolgan and is closely con-
492 nected with the activity of hunting, nevertheless the carrier's trade as a source of revenue has no significance in the economy of the Dolgan. Reindeer are usually employed for transporting the goods of mercantile organizations from Dudinka to Anabar. A 320-kilogram load is placed on one cargo sled. The pay for transporting one pood (sixteen kilograms) as far as Khatanga (one thousand kilometers) is equal to seven rubles, or 140 rubles for one sled. The trip to Khatanga with a cargo sled takes two and one-half months at a minimum. During this time the carrier loses reindeer 1) from starvation (in winter the usual picture along the main route is the skinned corpses of fallen reindeer), and 2) from wolves. When we were passing through the territory one of our contractors was obliged to leave his load on the road, without carrying it to Volosyanka, and he himself was only able to reach his home on someone else's reindeer, on account of the fact that all of his own reindeer had been scattered by the wolves. And this is by no means a rare case. In general, on the road there is very great danger of losing one's reindeer, not only to the wolves, but also in blizzards, during raids made by wild reindeer, and so forth. On the other hand, the transportation of loads for pay has an unhealthy effect on the economy of the Dolgan, for it draws the polar-fox hunters away from their basic occupation. Insufficient supervision on the part of the regional authorities has compelled the population, to their detriment, to undertake the transportation of loads, notwithstanding the very convenient combination of waterways and the possibility of transporting goods along these routes. (1)

114 1. These questions [of reindeer transportation of goods--Analyst] were touched on at one time by us in print: Sovetskaia etnografiia, 1931, No. III-IV, in the article "Poezdka k dolganam" [A Trip to the Dolgan].

178 As long as the transportation problem remains unsolved the native
439 carriers with their reindeer will do great harm to the population; on